

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 11660 041823Z

67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 COME-00 EB-11 FMC-04 CG-00

COA-02 DLOS-06 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /149 W

----- 015483

R 041758Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7193

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11660

E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: BOMBAY PORT CONGESTION

REF: BOMBAY 1941, 1951 (NOTAL) BOMBAY A-86, 8/14/73

1. AMCONSUL BOMBAY REPORTED TO EMBASSY OCT 3 THAT BOMBAY PORT TRUST DOCKS MANAGER L. SOARES CONFIRMED RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT BOMBAY PORT IS BADLY CONGESTED. NGE SAID STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR A) GREATER UTILIZATION OF WORKGANGS, B) MORE STORAGE SPACE IN TRANSIT SHEDS, AND C) MORE EXPEDITIOUS CLEARANCE OF GOODS.

2. LOCAL SHIPPING COMPANIES QUESTION ABILITY BOMBAY PORT AUTHORITIES HANDLE SITUATION AND FEAR PRESENT 10 PERCENT SURCHARGE MIGHT BE INCREASED IF CONGESTION PERSISTS. AS OF OCT 3, 13 SHIPS WERE AWAITING BERTHS AT BOMBAY PORT, INCLUDING FOUR LOADED WITH FOODGRAIN AND FERTILIZER.

3. CONGESTION COMPOUNDED BY STRIKE OF NATIONAL UNION OF SEAFARERS OF INDIA (NUSI) AGAINST SCINDIA STEAMSHIP NAVIGATION COMPANY, INDIA'S LARGEST PRIVATE SHIPPING COMPANY. OF FIVE SCINDIA SHIPS

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IN BOMBAY HARBOR IMMOBILIZED BY STRIKE, TWO ARE BERTHED AT

INDIRA DOCK. ACTING NUSI GENERAL SECRETARY TOLD AMCONSUL BOMBAY
THAT IF SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, STRIKE WILL
BE EXTENDED TO SCINDIA VESSELS IN OTHER INDIAN PORTS.
SCHNEIDER

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